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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
30 October 1973

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

MIDDLE EAST

Situation Report Number 94
(As of 1530 EST)

State Dept Review
Completed

THE MILITARY SITUATION

GENERAL

(All times cited in military paragraphs are Cairo/Tel Aviv time, unless otherwise specified.)

1. Both fronts remained generally calm today, although there were several incidents on the Egyptian front. Early this afternoon, at least two Egyptian SAMs were fired at an Israeli fighter some eight miles northeast of Ismailia, but the aircraft was not hit. During mid-afternoon, an Egyptian commander threatened to attack an Israeli force which he claimed had moved into new positions in an area some 12 miles west of the Great Bitter Lake during the night. A UN patrol on the scene has not yet reported any fighting. Israeli artillery opened fire at a "slow rate" against Egyptian forces which had moved onto a bridge across the Sweet-water Canal some two miles north of Suez City. A UN patrol reported this afternoon that the Israelis had warned the Egyptians to vacate the bridge before the firing began.

2. During a meeting with the commander of the UN observer force early this morning, General Dayan

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refused a request that Israeli forces return to their positions occupied on 22 October at the time of the first cease-fire. Dayan said, however, that his negative response was unofficial and that a formal reply could be expected later today.

KUZNETSOV IN CAIRO

3. The Egyptian news agency announced today that Soviet First Deputy Foreign Minister Kuznetsov arrived today in Cairo for talks about the Middle East situation. Kuznetsov presumably was aboard the IL-18 that landed in Cairo at 0531 EST. Kuznetsov is second in command to Gromyko in the Foreign Ministry and has been used before by Moscow in a troubleshooting role.

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SOVIET PRESS

9. US differences with Western Europe over Middle East policy and critical reporting on US domestic problems appeared in the Soviet press again today. TASS replayed official statements from West European capitals which reflect the disagreements between the US and Western Europe and Izvestiya carried an item, based on a

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US article, on bribery as a way of life in US politics. Pravda printed an account of Senator Fulbright's interview with a Lebanese reporter in which Fulbright is quoted as saying that US support for Israel's "expansionist" policy is not in US interests.

10. Soviet press accounts of the war were cautiously optimistic this morning. The cease-fire was reported as holding, UN emergency forces were said to have taken their positions on the front, and the meeting of Egyptian and Israeli officers to discuss the cease-fire were reported in the Soviet media. The delivery of supplies by the relief convoy to the Egyptian Third Army also was noted.

EGYPT

11. The Cairo press appears increasingly to be taking up a theme used by authoritative Akhbar al-Yawm columnist Ihsan Abd al-Quddus in his regular weekly article on 27 October. The theme is war. Quddus himself urged that arms not be laid down but rather prepared for a "greater and more violent battle." An Al-Ahram commentator today echoed this line when he noted that Egypt is better prepared militarily and psychologically to launch a war tomorrow than it was after "six years of quiescence." A third columnist writes, more stridently, that many phases of the current war are yet to come; although Israel will start the next phase "as usual," he says, "those, particularly in the Western world, who think that cease-fire means the end of war are seriously mistaken."

12. Some of this bellicose posture can probably be attributed counterpropaganda as word of the real nature of the military situation gradually seeps out to the public; the Egyptian leadership might hope by aggressive propaganda to counter much of the criticism being directed against it for not pursuing the battle. On the other hand, it is significant that Ihsan Abd al-Quddus, has adopted this line. He rivals and probably somewhat surpasses Muhammad Hasanayn Haykal for accuracy in portraying the government's position, and in the weeks before the beginning of hostilities on

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6 October he alone was calling for war when other commentators were talking of nothing more serious than an unspecified use of the oil weapon.

ISRAEL

13. Israeli deputy finance minister Dinstein has "seriously advanced" the idea that the western world could effectively counter the Arab use of oil as a weapon by controlling food exports to the Arabs. Dinstein made the proposal to a visiting US congressman. The US embassy in Tel Aviv reports that it is hearing this argument with increasing frequency from Israeli contacts.

EGYPTIAN FRONT

14. The front was generally calm today, although there were several localized incidents this afternoon. Small flights of two to four Israeli aircraft continued to patrol the skies over the front, but an Egyptian SAM unit fired at one of the formations.

CEASE-FIRE VIOLATIONS

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[REDACTED] According to press reports, the Israeli military command accused the Egyptians of firing three SAMs at reconnaissance flights over Israeli-held territory today, but said none of the planes were hit.

16. At 1542, a UN patrol reported it had been informed by an Egyptian commander that his troops were prepared to attack a new Israeli position some 12 miles west of the Great Bitter Lake unless the Israelis withdrew. The Egyptian commander claimed the Israelis had occupied the positions during the night. According to the UN patrol, the Israelis had informed it about the position yesterday and the patrol had observed the position at that time. There are no reports of firing thus far.

17. At 1637, a UN patrol reported Egyptian forces were on a bridge across the Sweetwater Canal within two miles of Suez City. The UN patrol reported it was between the Egyptian and Israeli forces, and the latter threatened to open fire unless the bridge was vacated. At 1720, the UN patrol reported that the Israelis on the west bank had begun to fire on the bridge, but the rate of fire was slow.

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PRISONERS OF WAR

20. Israeli Defense Minister Moshe Dayan today announced the agreement between Egypt and Israel for a mutual exchange of wounded prisoners of war. Dayan's announcement

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was apparently made before the Egyptians tied the POW release to an Israeli withdrawal to the 22 October lines, and may therefore be subject to retraction. He said Egypt has submitted a list of only 82 Israeli POWs captured in the 1967 and 1973 wars; of these he believes about 60 are wounded. In exchange, Dayan announced, Israel will release 75 wounded Egyptian POWs as well as wounded Egyptian soldiers of the stranded Third Army.

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ARAB PRESSURES ON US

24. US Embassy officials in Tehran have been told by a number of journalists that the Arabs have devised a plan for bringing pressure on the US. According to one scenario, a five-step blueprint was discussed but not

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formally adopted at the conference of Arab oil ministers in Kuwait several weeks ago. This plan includes the oil embargo already in effect as well as:

- an Arab boycott of all American goods;
- a withdrawal of Arab capital from the US and all American enterprises;
- the nationalization of American businesses;
- the expulsion from Arab countries of all US citizens, including diplomats.

25. The Kuwaiti ambassador to Iran told our embassy that he could not confirm the acceptance of the above plan, but he did mention the existence of a three-point program aimed at pressing the US to force Israel to evacuate all Arab territories occupied in the 1967 war. According to this scenario, the Arabs will follow the current oil embargo with a complete severance of economic and commercial ties with the US and the expulsion of Americans from all Arab League countries. The Kuwaiti diplomat stated that the three-step plan has already been accepted, with only the timing of its implementation left to be decided.

UNITED NATIONS

26. The Security Council is expected to meet informally tomorrow to consider offers of UN Emergency Force contingents. Non-aligned states are urging that the Council designate Ghana, Nepal, and Panama as participants without waiting for agreement upon the full composition of UNEF. Australian Permanent Representative McIntyre, this month's Council president, apparently supports the non-aligned plan.

27. US Ambassador Scali is concerned that the prisoner issue may be a determining factor in Israeli policy on UNEF contingents. Tel Aviv's opposition to the participation of any country with which it does not have relations is becoming a major obstacle. Secretary-General Waldheim feels he must include two African members, but few African states still have relations with Tel Aviv. One of the non-aligned candidates, Ghana, has broken relations with Israel. Waldheim--possibly at French initiation--wishes to propose a combined

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Ivory Coast-Senegal contingent on the grounds that Senegalese President Senghor, despite his recent breaking of relations with Israel, still wishes close ties.

28. The following states have offered contingents for UNEF:

- Africa: Ghana.
- Asia: Indonesia, Nepal.
- Western Europe and other: Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Australia.
- Eastern Europe: Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, German Democratic Republic, Poland, Romania, Yugoslavia.
- Latin America: Panama, Peru, Uruguay.

29. Secretary-General Waldheim has instructed General Siilasvuo, acting commander of the UN Emergency Force (UNEF), to request Israeli Foreign Minister Dayan to return his forces to their positions on 22 October. Waldheim acted on the authority of last week's three cease-fire resolutions.

OIL :

30. Bahrain today joined the long list of Arab oil producers which have embargoed shipments to the Netherlands.

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